In such case, there can be enabled the operation on the file or folder even in the absence of the connection with the cradle. In case of a change in the file name, folder name or directory structure, the history information on such change is stored for example in the memory 34 of the image pickup apparatus.

Then, when the connection is made again with the cradle, such change history information may be referred to match the directory structure and the file name between the image pickup apparatus and the cradle.

In this manner there can be enabled the operation on the files and the matching between the image pickup apparatus and the cradle constituting the external memory device, even in the non-connected state.

In the above-described embodiment, the connectors 52a, 52b, 54a, 54b are employed for connecting the main body of the camera and the cradle 50, but wireless connection may be employed simply for signal connection, namely if the charging function is not required. Various wireless communication systems such as IrDA (trade name) or Bluetooth (trade name) are currently becoming popular, and such systems may be employed to provide an advantage of executing operations from a remote location.

In such case, the file operation on the main body of the camera can be reflected on the cradle on

real-time basis within a distance allowing communication. In such case, it is not necessary to store the change history information mentioned above.

In case the communication is not possible for example because of an excessively large distance, the above-mentioned change history information may be utilized to achieve matching of the information when the communication becomes possible.

Fig. 17 is a schematic block diagram showing the configuration of a modified embodiment employing the wireless connection system, wherein components same as those in Fig. 1 are represented by like numbers. The main body of the camera is provided with a wireless communication module 140 while the cradle 50a is provided with a wireless communication module 142 corresponding to the module 140.

In the present embodiment, the power supply of the cradle is automatically turned on when the main body of the camera is set on the cradle. Then the folder structure of the cradle is displayed on the display unit of the camera and various operation can be executed by the input means constituted by a camera key or a pen. In this manner it is possible to execute backup of the image data of the camera by a very simple operation, and the input/outoput means such as the display unit and the key switches can be dispensed with in the cradle, which can thus be produced

inexpensively.

Furthermore, as the image data subjected to such backup are automatically changed to a size corresponding to the number of display pixels for transfer to the camera, so that the image display can be promptly obtained without connection to the cradle each time and without giving a stress on the capacity of the memory medium for the taken image.

In the foregoing embodiments, the control programs are stored in the ROM 36 of the image pickup apparatus, but it is also possible to store all the control programs or a part thereof in the external memory apparatus.

Also the image reduction and the conversion of the number of gradation levels in the cradle according to the display ability of the display device of the camera as explained in the foregoing allows to flexibly adapt to the display abilities of various image pickup apparatus, and also allows to reduce the memory capacity since data exceeding the display ability of the image pickup apparatus is unnecessary in case there is only required to confirm the image stored in the external memory device.

Consequently it is rendered possible to flexibly adapt to the display ability of each camera by such a modification that the camera and the cradle mutually communicate on the display ability prior to